

~ Our Noisy Lives ~

“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God.”

~Psalm 62:5

Dear Members and Friends,

Michelle and I were given a nice big television as a wedding gift, thirteen years ago. It was one of those bulky, heavy TVs of former times. It looked like it had a little Volkswagen engine crammed into the hunchback just behind the screen. Somehow we never noticed everyone else moving to flat screens. We still thought our TV was state-of-the-art until about four years ago when it gave up the ghost. We had just seen a skit on *Saturday Night Live* that made a passing joke about “your parents’ TV” that weighs fifty pounds, and we looked at each other and said, “Are they making fun of... us?” We never really replaced the ancient apparatus. I still recall our first few months without a TV. I felt so bad for the kids, who were still pretty small. What’s a childhood without television? We used to sit them in front of the TV to eat their breakfast. We sat them there on Saturday mornings—probably because we both grew up with Saturday morning cartoons. We sat them in front of the “flickering blue parent” whenever we needed a break from them. Don’t get me wrong. We were not one of those families that always had the TV blaring in the background. Aside from breakfast and Saturday mornings, the rule was no TV before 7:00 p.m. But when the TV went kaput, an uncomfortable silence descended over our house, and I found myself asking, “Is this okay for kids—to live without the noise, and the distraction, and the imaginative play of television?”

The answer, of course, is a resounding yes. Kids not only survive the absence of television; they actually thrive in it. I recently read an article claiming that children need to be bored, that parents shouldn’t constantly give them things to busy their hands and minds, that in stillness and silence their thoughts are free to wander in ways that are good for them. And not just children! If civility is in decline in America today, I wonder if it’s not in part because we’re starving our minds of the “open spaces” they need in order to be healthy. We’re constantly accessible to text messages, emails, phone calls, social media, radios, and of course, television. Oh, the gafts and groans that the social media service “Twitter” brings us almost daily! (And “Twitter” is a perfect name for it.) Our spirits are being crowded and polluted by unlimited input. Consider this quote from the Jesuit theologian, Ladislaus Boros:

“For anyone who wishes to hear what is true and real, every voice must for once be still. Silence, however, is not merely the absence of speech. It is not something negative; it is something in itself. It is a depth, a fullness, a peaceful flow of hidden life. Everything true and great grows in silence. Without silence we fall short of reality and cannot plumb the depths of being.”

“Without silence we fall short of reality!” This is a diagnosis of the ills of modern life—our anxiety, our fatigue, our irritability, our polarization. We’re not getting the empty time we need to develop healthy emotions and thoughts, and the result is a disconnection from reality. You might be tempted to say, “Oh, it’s just Brian, making his annual appeal for everyone to stop talking.” It’s true that I might be guiltier than you of filling the world with useless words. I admit, too, that sometimes we can’t even get a handle on our life until we’ve put its experiences into words. Talking can be good. And yet, maybe we’d all be happier if we drove to work with the radio off. Maybe we’d be saner if we gave ourselves a day—just one day a week—when we rested from emails, computers, and phones. Maybe that day could be Sunday?

Sometimes even noisy things can help us to cultivate silence in our lives, too. All the best music does it. Poetry does it, as does most art—which is admittedly noiseless. Going to church nurtures a healthy silence in us, for even though extended moments of silence are rare in worship, the words, and the music, and the atmosphere of church plucks at strings in our spirit that aren’t otherwise touched. It gives us things to ponder later in the week. In any case, let’s make an effort to counter the craziness of our world with a healthy dose of silence every now and again.

In Christ’s Peace,
~Brian

PS: Another urgent appeal, completely unrelated: Please make a real effort to talk to visitors, especially if they are alone. Invite them to coffee hour; ask to sit with them; hand them our informational brochure. Sometimes we’re so happy to see each other that visitors feel like they’re sitting in on someone else’s family reunion!

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY COVERAGE**

Beginning Sunday, May 28, children from preschool through completed second grade will be combined for summer fun during the worship service. Children should remain in worship until the Children's Sermon. Then they will be escorted to room 110 (downstairs lounge) for games and crafts, and to enjoy the playground. Parents should pick up their children from room 110 after worship.

Completed third grade and above are invited to stay in worship with their parents. Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be offered during the service in the nursery as usual.

SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUTH

This summer, we have some fun activities planned for youth—completed 5th grade and up. Please be sure to save the dates for these events, and plan to invite a friend or two! More detailed info on these events will be communicated via email. If you have any questions, please see Amy or email her at am@bhccml.com

June 16 at 6:00 p.m. – *Washington Wild Things* baseball game

July 21 at 7:00 p.m. – miniature golf at Cool Springs

August 26 at 6:00 p.m. – Pittsburgh Riverhounds soccer game

Also be sure to mark these special week-long activities in your calendars:

July 17-21 – Day Camp /Jr. Day Camp week (students in completed 5th & 6th grades can still attend Day Camp), and the older students (completed 7th grade and above) can help with our Jr. Day Camp.

July 23-28 – Mission Possible Trip to Camp Crestfield. This is available for students completed 5th grade and up. The registration deadline has been extended. Please contact Amy if you are interested in attending.

JR. DAY CAMP SUPPLIES NEEDED

This year's Jr. Day Camp theme is **"Branching Out – Connecting through Christ."** We are excited for the wonderful, exciting week being planned for the children. A giving tree of supplies needed for Jr. Day Camp has been placed outside of the Friendship Room. Please consider taking a leaf (or two) to donate. All supplies and monetary donations are to be delivered to the church by **Sunday, June 18**. Thank you in advance for your support!

REFUGEE FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thanks for your participation in the SHIM Refugee Food Drive. 108 food items were collected, and \$175 was donated to SHIM. We also worked to raise awareness to the refugees in our immediate area. Thanks for your support in making this event a success!

REGISTRATION FOR JR. DAY CAMP AND DAY CAMP ENDS JUNE 18TH!

Planning to join us for Jr. Day Camp and Day Camp, July 17-21? Be sure to get your registration in soon. New this year, you can register online. Simply go to: www.bowerhillchurch.org/daycamp/. If you would like to register using a check instead, a pdf of the registration form can be downloaded at the link above, and paper copies are located on the bulletin board by the Friendship Room. Especially for Day Camp, where our space is limited to only 40 campers, please be sure to register early!

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

While the Adult Education program has completed the 2016-17 season, it is not taking a break but shifting gears for the summer. The Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate, and church member Peter Smith will be reprising their lectionary discussion series during the summer months. **Each Sunday, beginning June 11, at 10:45 a.m.** in the Friendship Room, they will lead a discussion of the day's scripture readings. Come join us for a change of pace and some lively discussion.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOTICE

The July and August Newsletters will be combined into a joint issue. The following deadlines and meeting dates apply:

- The deadline for newsletter submissions is June 15.
- The deadline for the September Kickoff edition of the newsletter is August 15.
- Newsletter volunteers will meet June 22 and August 24. There will be no mailing to fold in July.
- Please call the office with any questions or concerns.

TALKING ABOUT TOMORROW

BHCC has undertaken a series of church-wide conversations about the identity and direction of our congregation. These conversations are supposed to be fun, low-key, stress-free, and above all, multigenerational. We want YOU to take part! Our next event will take place on **Sunday, July 9, immediately following worship.** (There will be no Bible study that day.) Just stay for coffee hour, expect it to take A WHOLE HOUR, and bring a brunch dish to share. Children are welcome at this event. We will be discussing the results of our last *Talking-about-Tomorrow* gathering and the opportunities that lie ahead with both DART and the Braillists moving out of our building. Please plan to attend. See the bulletin board for food sign-up.

Church Leadership (2018-2020)**Session Class of 2018**

Jim Cannon
Sarah Cannon
Andy Druckenbrod
Dick Headley
Alan Hohlfelder
Gordon Mitchell

Session Class of 2019

Ben Boisvert
Gary Gorski
Susan Hicks
Pat Jacobs
Kent Jones
Mike Riemer

Session Class of 2020

Deb Carter
Theresa Child
Dave Hicks
Linda James
Keith Mason
Kara Pepicelli

Deacons Class of 2018

Sally Child
Doris Olinger
Kathy Philson
Ruth Robbins

Deacons Class of 2019

Cynthia Gissin
Mary Gorski
Nancy Green
Anne Mitchell

Deacons Class of 2020

Mary Good
Melissa Harman
Darenda Lease
Phyllis Madden

2018 Nominating Committee

Carolyn Boisvert
Glenn Child
Amber Grier
Barb Hughes



Lawrence P. Sirinek

3/3/51—5/20/17

Husband of Lynn Helbling Sirinek.
Son-in-law of Nina Helbling.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL **Sunday, June 4** **(following Worship)**

What better way is there to kick off the summer than with ice cream?!

Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for make-your-own sundaes! Then relax and enjoy some quality time together before we get wrapped up with our busy summer plans.

Weather permitting, there will be games on the front lawn for the children. Please feel free to bring your own lawn chairs or any outdoor games that you would like to share!



June 1	Carolyn Boisvert Kirsten Rising
June 2	Andy Druckenbrod Richard Junker
June 3	Judith Linaburg Steve Grier
June 4	Robert Foster
June 5	Nina Helbling
June 6	Laura Philson
June 7	Char Balentine Mac Harman
June 11	Lily Philson Alma Johnson
June 12	Bill Gardner, III Nancy Salvante Leah Smith
June 14	Jeffrey Criswell
June 17	James Cannon

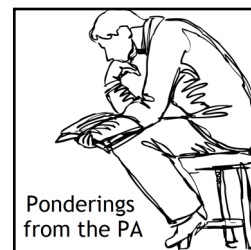
June 18	Dylan Lease
June 19	Katelyn Cole Lucy Ivey June Schriber
June 20	Riley Jones Tim Lease
June 21	Louise Burroughs
June 22	Gloria Julian Rick Jacobs, Jr.
June 23	June Stewart Mary Good
June 25	Alfie Watterson
June 26	Linda James
June 27	Nicholas Kane
June 28	Melanie Cole Andrew Stewart
June 30	Kirk Ketchum

Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes!

If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PA

Ministry is a team effort! Every Monday morning the team known as the staff of Bower Hill Community Church gathers to discuss various issues and programs that affect the lives of the larger team – the congregation. Though each member of the staff has their own particular focus and talent, everyone shares in thoughts and tasks that will accomplish the ministry to which we are called. As members of the congregation, you too are an integral part of the team. Your prayers, presence, gifts and service enable the church to be in ministry to our local community and to the issues that impact the global community as well. Like notes of a symphony, we blend together in a harmony that could never be achieved individually. As I now enter my second full year as the Pastoral Associate, I continue to be grateful for my membership on the team! The multi-faceted approach to meet various needs is quite gratifying. I am both inspired and challenged to move us collectively to expand our horizons and offer more opportunities for service. Thank you to Pastor Brian, members of the staff and the congregation for allowing me to join the team.



June Worship Plans

WORSHIP PLANS

June 4: Day of Pentecost
Communion

Acts 2: 10-21; I Corinthians 12:3 - 13

June 11: Trinity Sunday
2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16 - 20

June 18: Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 28:16-20

June 25: Third Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 21:8-21; Matthew 10:24-39

COMMUNITY NOTES

Want to be included on this page? Submissions are typically due the 15th of every month for the next month's publication (unless otherwise announced). 412-561-4114 or office@bhccml.com



SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The senior men's breakfast group will meet on **Tuesday, June 6**. The Kings Restaurant on Route 50 near the end of Greentree Road in Scott is the location, and the meeting time is **8:00 a.m.** The group meets in the room to the left of the cashier, and no reservation is necessary. Usually 6-10 church members attend and are welcome to an unstructured discussion of any topic that comes to mind. Join us!

WALLACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The next collection date is **Sunday, June 11**. Wallace Food Pantry is grateful to the members of Bower Hill Community Church for their generous support of this ministry to our hungry neighbors! Any donations of non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and paper products are welcomed. Collection bins are located in the hallways outside the church office and the Nursery.

HOOKS AND NEEDLES UPDATE

Due to a meeting room conflict on **Saturday, June 3**, our knitting/crocheting group will meet in the Friendship Room instead of the Adult Lounge.

BOOKWORMS

This group meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at **7:30 p.m., in Room 103**, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

June

The Orchardist, by Amanda Coplin

July

Underground Railroad, by Coleson Whitehead

August

Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman

September

Wright Brothers, by David McCullough

October

Rex, by Cathleen Lewis

November

One in a Million Boy, by Monica Wood

December

No meeting



CRAFT/VENDOR FAIR

On **Saturday, November 4**, Bower Hill Church, in partnership with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, will hold a craft/vendor fair called **Women Helping Women**, with proceeds benefitting Family Promise. If you are a woman crafter or vendor and are interested in participating in this event, or if you are interested in helping, please contact Jean Miewald or Joan McAnulty. More information about this event will be forthcoming, so stay tuned!

WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

Our next collection date for disposable diapers will be **Sunday, June 18**. Sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most in need for babies. XL diapers are needed for the geriatric population. The collection container is the Pack'N Play located in the hallway directly outside of the Nursery.

Tax-deductible monetary donations may be made by a check payable to Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mailed to 2546 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Please note our church name on the Memo line of your check.

Please remember to save diaper coupons that you collect but don't use, and place them in the envelope near the Pack'N Play.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE KOCHER FAMILY

Our family has experienced the most challenging time in our lives for the past four months. We feel grateful to have been blessed with a church community that has helped and continues to help us get through these times. Every meal, prayer, donation, card, hug and beyond has been greatly appreciated. We feel honored to be a part of Bower Hill Community Church where the generosity is overwhelming. Our hope is that someday we are able to pay this generosity forward to someone else in need.



*With much love and gratitude,
Matt and Lauren Kocher and family*

SANDI'S GARDEN IS UP AND RUNNING!

Sandi's Garden is now ready to burst forth and once again supply SHIM's Food Pantry with bountiful fresh organic produce.

All of this doesn't happen on its own. Sandi's Garden provides opportunities for all members of the congregation to participate. Members can help make this year even more successful than last year by:

- * Donating seed packets of Swiss chard, kale, bush beans, pole beans, zucchini, and winter squash seeds.
- * Donating sweet and hot pepper plants.
- * Donating regular basil or Thai basil plants. Fresh herbs are always welcome at the Food Pantry.
- * Signing up to water the garden beds for a week.
- * Helping with harvesting produce.
- * Stopping by the garden and pulling a few weeds. The compost bin is convenient to the garden.
- * Volunteering to deliver the produce on Monday or Tuesday mornings.



We are blessed to be part of a congregation that is committed to the call to serve others in so many ways. Sandi's Garden provides an opportunity to enjoy the long-awaited, warm sunny days of spring and summer, knowing that our little plot of land is part of a wonderful mission. Many thanks to all who have been part of this mission project in the past and who continue to support it.

SUMMER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETERS	COFFEE	COMMUNION	FLOWERS	SEXTONS	SOUNDBOARD
June 4	June Captain: K. Jones J. Miewald, L. Wohleber, J. Carper	Casey/DeLair	Gordon & Anne Mitchell Jason Robosky, M. DeLair	A. Mitchell	Tim Lease	N. Ivey
June 11	Harman Family, J. Carper	Mitchell		R. Robbins	Bill Andrews	P. Morgan
June 18	Chris Robbins & Family, J. Carper	Lease		N. Green	Bill Cadwell	B. Andrews
June 25	McGaha's, M. DeLair, J. Carper	Robbins		K. Philson	Jean Miewald	B. Mackey
July 2	July Captain: M. Riemer Sally and Glenn Child, J. Carper	Johnson	Rick & Pat Jacobs M. Zabo, Ruth Robbins	D. Olinger	Glenn Child	P. Morgan
July 9	A. and G. Mitchell, J. Carper	TBD		S. Child	Bill Cadwell	N. Ivey
July 16	Amber and Steve Grier, J. Carper	Boisvert		J. Sheldon	Dick Headley	G. Child
July 23	K. Casey, D. Headley, J. Carper	Mackey		P. Madden	Tim Lease	B. Andrews
July 30	Robbins Family, J. Carper	TBD		C. Gissin	Bill Cadwell	G. Child
August 6	August Captain: A. Druckenbrod K. Pepicelli, M. Good, J. Carper	Shwallon	Sally Child, J. Miewald Mike Riemer, L. McNickle	B. Robosky	Bill Andrews	B. Mackey
August 13	Steve & Deb Boisvert, J. Carper	Saba		M. Good	Jean Miewald	N. Ivey
August 20	Druckenbrod Family, J. Carper	Snyder		M. Gorski	Glenn Child	P. Morgan
August 27	Siefken Family, J. Carper	Grella		A. Mitchell	Bill Cadwell	B. Andrews

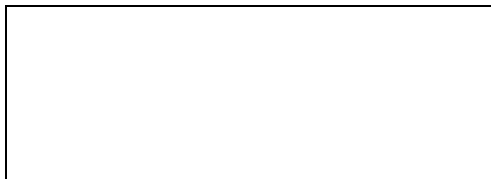
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



Phone: 412-561-4114
Fax: 412-561-2252
E-mail: office@bhccml.com
www.BowerHillChurch.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2335
Pittsburgh, PA

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
br@bhccml.com

Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure

Company of Pastors
Rev. Tami Hooker
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

Amy Grella
Director of Christian Education
and Youth Programs
am@bhccml.com

Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries
an@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Marian Brannan, 1300 Bower Hill Rd., #1128, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Louise Burroughs, Sunrise of Upper St. Clair, 500 Village Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
Matt Dunfee, 569 S. Forest St., Apt. 10, Denver, CO 80746
Ethel La Barbera, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION

Need a ride to worship? The deacons would like to provide a ride to worship for members who need one. Please contact the church office several days before Sunday worship, and someone will help schedule your ride.



ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE A RIDE?

The deacons are compiling a list of people who might be **willing to give rides** to church. There are several people who do not drive who might come to church if they had a ride. If you would be willing to offer rides, please call the church office at 412-561-4114.